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**UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
ARIZONA ECOLOGICAL SERVICES STATE OFFICE
2321 W. Royal Palm Road, Suite 103
Phoenix, Arizona 85021-4951**



Telephone: (602) 640-2720 FAX: (602) 640-2730
June 5, 1995

Rec'd
6/15/95

In Reply Refer To:
AESO/SE
2-21-95-I-244

Ms. Doris Betuel
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency
75 Hawthorne Street, Mailcode W-6-3
San Francisco, California 94105-3901

Dear Ms. Betuel:

This letter responds to your May 23, 1995, request for information on listed or proposed threatened or endangered species and candidate species that may occur in the area of Florence, Pinal County, Arizona for Magma Copper Company's proposed in-situ copper mining project.

Our data indicate the following listed and candidate species may occur in the FMR area:

Endangered

Lesser long-nosed bat (*Leptonycteris curasoae yerbabuenae*)
American peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus anatum*)

Proposed Endangered

Cactus ferruginous pygmy-owl (*Glaucidium brasilianum cactorum*)

Candidate Category 2

Cave myotis (*Myotis velifer*)
Greater western mastiff-bat (*Eumops perotis californicus*)
California leaf-nosed bat (*Macrotus californicus*)
Loggerhead shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*)
Ferruginous hawk (*Buteo regalis*) (wintering)
Desert tortoise (Sonoran population) (*Gopherus agassizii*)
Chuckwalla (*Sauromalus obesus*)

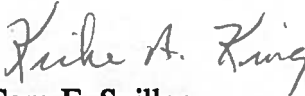
Endangered and threatened species are protected by Federal law and must be considered prior to project development. Candidate species are those which the Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is considering adding to the threatened or endangered species list. Category 1 candidates are those for which the Service has enough information to support a proposal to list. Category 2 species are those for which the Service presently has insufficient information to support a proposal to list. Although candidate species have no legal protection under the Endangered Species Act, they should be considered in the planning process in the event they become listed or proposed for listing prior to project completion.

If any proposed action may affect riparian areas, the following concerns should be noted. The Service is concerned about the protection of riparian habitats because they are rare and declining in the southwestern United States. Because many plant and animal species only occur or are more abundant in riparian areas, protecting and conserving riparian areas is critical to preserving genetic, species, population, and community diversity throughout Arizona. Maintaining hydrologic and other environmental conditions that support healthy riparian ecosystems is essential to the maintenance of healthy populations of plants, invertebrates, fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals. Riparian areas also provide linear corridors critical to migratory species such as neotropical birds, waterfowl, and certain bats. The Service recommends that effects to riparian areas be avoided or mitigated.

The State of Arizona protects some species not protected by Federal law. We suggest you contact the Arizona Game and Fish Department and the Arizona Department of Agriculture for state-listed or sensitive species in the project area.

We appreciate your efforts to identify and avoid impacts to listed and sensitive species in your project area. In future communications on this project, please refer to consultation number 2-21-95-I-244. If we may be of further assistance, please contact Don Henry or Tom Gatz.

Sincerely,


for Sam F. Spiller
State Supervisor

cc: Director, Arizona Game and Fish Department, Phoenix, Arizona